

By: Kolkhorst

H.B. No. 2504

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to requiring a public institution of higher education to  
3 make available to the public on the institution's Internet website  
4 certain course information; authorizing a penalty.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 51.974 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.974. INTERNET ACCESS TO COURSE INFORMATION. (a)

9 Each institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003,  
10 shall make available to the public on the institution's Internet  
11 website the following information for each classroom course offered  
12 for credit by the institution:

13 (1) a syllabus that:

14 (A) satisfies any standards adopted by the  
15 institution;

16 (B) provides a brief description of each major  
17 course requirement, including each major assignment and  
18 examination;

19 (C) lists any required or recommended reading;  
20 and

21 (D) provides a general description of the subject  
22 matter of each lecture or discussion;

23 (2) a curriculum vitae of each regular instructor that  
24 lists the instructor's:

1           (A) postsecondary education;  
2           (B) teaching experience; and  
3           (C) significant professional publications; and  
4           (3) if available, a course budget report from the most  
5 recent semester or other academic term during which the institution  
6 offered the course.

7           (b) The information required by Subsection (a) must be:

8           (1) accessible from the institution's Internet website  
9 home page by use of not more than three links;

10           (2) searchable by keywords and phrases; and

11           (3) accessible to the public without requiring  
12 registration or use of a user name, a password, or another user  
13 identification.

14           (c) The institution shall make the information required by  
15 Subsection (a) available not later than the seventh day after the  
16 first day of classes for the semester or other academic term during  
17 which the course is offered. The institution shall continue to make  
18 the information available on the institution's Internet website  
19 until at least the fifth anniversary of the date on which the  
20 institution initially posted the information.

21           (d) The institution shall update the information required  
22 by Subsection (a) as soon as practicable after the information  
23 changes.

24           (e) The governing body of the institution shall designate an  
25 administrator to be responsible for ensuring implementation of this  
26 section. The administrator may assign duties under this section to  
27 one or more administrative employees.

1       (f) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
2 adopt rules under which the coordinating board may impose a  
3 reasonable administrative penalty against the responsible  
4 administrator of an institution designated under Subsection (e) who  
5 knowingly violates this section. The rules must provide for the  
6 coordinating board to hold a hearing to determine whether a penalty  
7 is to be imposed and the amount of any penalty. The coordinating  
8 board shall base the amount of any penalty on:

9               (1) the seriousness of the violation;

10              (2) any history of a previous violation;

11              (3) the amount necessary to deter a future violation;

12              (4) any effort to correct the violation; and

13              (5) any other matter justice requires.

14       SECTION 2. (a) Section 51.974, Education Code, as added by  
15 this Act, applies beginning with the 2010 fall semester.

16       (b) Not later than April 1, 2010, the Texas Higher Education  
17 Coordinating Board shall adopt rules relating to administrative  
18 penalties as required by Section 51.974(f), Education Code, as  
19 added by this Act.

20       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.